(c) the main reasons for these incidents; and

(d) the measures adopted to stop these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The number of incidents of army personnel killing their own colleagues during the last three years while deployed on counter insurgency operations in the country is as under:

1997	9
1998	4
1999	7

The main reasons for these incidents is the combat stress due to the peculiarities of counter insurgency environment which are different from operational tasks in a battlefield. Continuous efforts are made for planning proper relief programme, constant education and close interaction between commanders and the troops to keep the combat stress at a low level.

Defence Finance Policy

4718. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff has urged Government for radical
changes in the defence finance policy;

(b) if so, whether allocation of funds would be made to defence forces category-wise;

(c) whether a financial management strategy have been made by the Defence Forces and sent for approval; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Improving the Defence Finance System is a continuous endeavour of Ministry of Defence and Service HQRs.

Allocations of funds are already being made category-wise. Infact, Government have in the Ninth Plan period made substantial provisions for various categories of defence requirements. Defence Allocations have been further enhanced from Rs. 48504 crores in RE 1999-2000 to Rs. 58587 crores in BE 2000-2001 i.e. an increase of 21 %,

(c) and (d) No Financial management Strategy document prepared by the Defence Forces has been sent to the Union Government for approval.

Deployment of Armed Forces in NE States

4719. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army battalion deployed in NE States during 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that not a single operation unit of the army is presently deployed in Tripura to combat insurgent activities; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to deploy adequate armed forces to these places immediately to stem further escalation of such activities and combat the anti-national forces and their allies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The maximum number of Army/Assam Rifles and Rashtriya Rifles units that were deployed for counter insurgency operations in the North Eastern States during 1998-99 was 71.

(b) and (c) Four Assam Rifles battalions under the operational control of Army are presently deployed in the sensitive areas to combat militancy in Tripura. The deployment of forces in the counter insurgency Grid in the North Eastern Region is done in accordnace with the threat assessment and the determined priorities and depends on security situation obtaining in the region.

There is presently no plan to deploy additional units of the Army/Assam Rifles in the area.

Shifting of Firing Range from Dehradun

†4720. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the firing range adjoining Dehradun has come closure to the city and is posing a constant threat to the civil population during the military shooting practice; and

(b) whether under these circumstances the said firing range will be shifted away from the city?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) None of the four Field/Small Arms Ranges have been shifted closer to the city. All

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.